

Question on Notice
No. 13
Asked on 13 February 2013

MR MULHERIN asked the Minister for Police and Community Safety (MR DEMPSEY) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the Minister's recent visits to the State Disaster Coordination Centre and other Local Disaster Management Centres due to fire and flooding emergencies, will the Minister advise (a) the staffing levels for these centres during the disasters of 2013 (broken down by centre), (b) the staffing levels for these centres during the disasters of 2010-11 (broken down by centre), (c) what staff in these centres were not required for the emergency response, (d) what staff working in these centres have been, or will be made redundant (by position) and (e) whether the loss of staff already cut by the government in police and community safety resulted in any lower levels of service compared with previous disasters?

ANSWER:

I am unable to comment on Local Disaster Management Centres, as they are established and operated by individual local governments. I can only comment on the staffing and management of the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC).

(a) The staffing levels of the SDCC during the disasters of 2013

There has been one SDCC activation in 2013. A total of 202 staff supported the operations of the State Disaster Coordination Centre, including 106 DCS staff and 96 staff from across government.

(b) The staffing levels for the SDCC during the disasters of 2010-11

In the 2010-2011 Queensland flood event, incorporating Tropical Cyclones Anthony and Tasha, 38 Department of Community Safety staff and 9 Victorian State Emergency Services (SES) staff worked in the SDCC. For the Tropical Cyclone Yasi event in February 2011, 48 DCS staff and 63 staff from across government worked in the SDCC.

(c) What staff in the SDCC were not required for the emergency response

The SDCC is only activated for disaster events. Staffing levels are based on rosters for the key areas of logistics, operations, planning, support and intelligence. All staff working in the SDCC during disaster events are required for emergency response.

(d) What staff working in these centres have been, or will be made redundant (by position)

There have been no redundancies within the Disaster Management Services Unit of EMQ which provides the staff for the 24/7 Watch Desk and the initial staffing for the SDCC.

(e) Whether the loss of staff already cut by the government in police and community safety resulted in any lower levels of service compared with previous disasters

In 2012, arrangements were made for staff from across government to be trained to support disaster events. This was successfully implemented in the response to Ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald in January with 96 staff from across government providing services in the SDCC.

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) only deployed sworn officers to the State Disaster Coordination Centre during the recent flood events. The deployment of QPS staff to the SDCC was not affected by reductions in unsworn staff members.